



Preparedness News and Information

From FEMA's Preparedness Division

October 3, 2003

NATIONAL NEWS

Bush Signs Homeland Security Funding Bill

NY Times, October 1, 2003

President Bush signed a Homeland Security funding bill that includes some \$4.2 billion for first-responder programs, \$9 billion for border protection and \$5.2 billion for the Transportation Security Agency and the Federal Air Marshal Program.

- [President Bush Signs Homeland Security Appropriations Act](#), *DHS Press Release*, October 1

Cargo Industry Questions Department's Ability to Implement Port Security Rule

GovExec, September 29, 2003

The cargo industry is pleased the Homeland Security Department has delayed a final rule to increase security at U.S. ports, but officials said the newly established department does not have the manpower to implement the regulation when it does go into effect.

- [Bush Orders Funds for Radiation Monitors at Ports](#), *NY Times*, September 30
- [Feds to Mull Air Cargo Security Proposals](#), *Associated Press*, October 1

DHS Fishes for Biological, Chemical Ideas

Federal Computer Week, September 29, 2003

The Homeland Security Department cast a broad net today, seeking new technologies to fight biological and chemical terrorism with goals including a next-generation biosurveillance sensor system that would provide wider coverage at reduced cost, and a fast, low false alarm system for biological defenses.

Agency Turf Battles Persist in Counterterrorism Race

GovExec, September 29, 2003

Senior government officials on Monday sought to detail efforts in the race to develop new counterterrorism technologies. But in their testimony before a House subcommittee, the officials revealed that efforts to develop the technologies remain complicated by the creation of the Homeland Security Department.

Federal Government Plans Diverse Strategy For Homeland Security In FY '04, Study Says

Homeland Security and Defense, October 1, 2003

The U.S. government in fiscal 2004 is expected to step up activity in a number of homeland security sectors, including agriculture, maritime and critical infrastructure, according to a new [report](#) from The O'Gara Company.

State, DHS to Share Responsibility for Training Visa Workers

GovExec, September 30, 2003

After the 2002 Homeland Security Act gave DHS a role in processing visas, State and Homeland Security officials have entered into extensive discussion over their newly shared responsibilities.

- [Departments of State, Homeland Security Reach Agreement on Visa Oversight Rule to Better Secure America's Borders](#), *DHS Press Release*, September 29

CONGRESS

First Homeland Security Budget Signed Amid Questions

GovExec, October 1, 2003

As the Homeland Security bill made its way through Congress, Democrats criticized it for not going far enough to aid ports and state and local "first responders" in addition to criticizing the Bush administration's lack of progress on security two years after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

RECENT LEGISLATION

- **S.1695** : A bill to provide greater oversight over the USA PATRIOT Act, *Senate Judiciary Committee*, October 1
- **H.R.2555** : Making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes, *House Appropriations, Senate Appropriations*, October 1
- **H.R.3227** : To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish clearly defined standards and guidelines for Federal, State, and local government emergency preparedness and response capability, and for other purposes, *House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee*, October 2

RECENT HEARINGS

- [Nuclear Terrorism Prevention: A Review of the Federal Government's Progress toward Installing Radiation Detection Monitors at U.S. Ports and Borders](#), Committee on Energy and Commerce, September 30
- [Identification Documents Fraud And The Implications For Homeland Security](#), House Select Committee on Homeland Security, October 1

STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Delta Fire Department to Upgrade with Grants

Clarion Ledger, September 29, 2003

Two grant awards administered by the Department of Homeland Security will be used for fire operations and firefighter safety which includes training, wellness and fitness, firefighting equipment, personal protective equipment, and modifications to fire stations and facilities.

State homeland security leader visits Oswego County

Valley News, September 27, 2003

New York Senator Balboni and area Senator Jim Wright spent two days last week touring the three nuclear power plants at Nine Mile Point and inspecting the three North Country bridges that connect the U.S. and Canada, among other potential targets to assess the security of potential terrorist targets.

Citizen Corps to Hold Disaster Preparedness Program

The Pilot, September 27, 2003

The Moore County Citizen Corps Council will kick off its disaster preparedness program called "Together We Prepare" which is designed to help families develop their own plans to react to any kind of emergency, whether it's a natural disaster or a terrorist attack.

Chief Envisions Specialized Team

Chatham Courier, September 25, 2003

Chatham Borough Police Chief John Drake wants to develop a six-officer, emergency services unit in conjunction with the development of similar units in at least two other local law agencies in an effort to promote mutual aid.

Public Health Programs Feared Lost in New Battle

Times Union, September 28, 2003

Some county health officials see direct hits to various services as a result of the shift in public health's agenda towards bioterror threats despite a low probability that the counties are potential terrorist targets.

Hospital, Fire Department Plan for Chemical Attack

Sentinel and Enterprise, September 27, 2003

The Fire Department and Health Alliance Hospital/Leominster today will take another step toward preparing for any sort of chemical attack with an emergency preparedness drill testing decontamination procedures.

Program Outlines Disaster Self-Help

Contra Costa Times, September 27, 2003

In a joint effort of the Alameda County Office of Emergency Services, the city of Dublin, the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department and Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, residents will learn how to be self-sufficient within 72 hours of a fire, earthquake, flood or terrorist attack.

Grants to Assist Area Schools

Public Opinion, September 27, 2003

A new emergency response and crisis management program will marry schools in six school districts in Franklin County with law enforcement, emergency management services, fire companies and mental health services.

Howard Police Chief to Push Agency Cooperation

Washington Post, September 28, 2003

Howard County Police Chief G. Wayne Livesay, sworn in this month as president of the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association, aims to promote police cooperation with other public safety agencies and to obtain more federal homeland security money for police departments, regardless of their size.

Volunteers get Responder Skills

Gainesville Sun, September 30, 2003

Levy County graduated its first Community Emergency Response Team - CERT - on Saturday morning with a triage exercise in which volunteers worked in groups of three and had 30 seconds to decide whether each of the "victims" would require immediate medical attention, could wait for a secondary wave of emergency workers to arrive, or had non-life-threatening injuries.

Commissioners Review Emergency Preparedness

Lamar Daily News, September 30, 2003

The Prowers County Commissioners yesterday met with several key emergency response officials in the county to review progress in preparation and planning for disasters including contingency plans for bioterror attacks.

Crews in 28 Cities Prepared for Attacks

Associated Press, October 1, 2003

Search and rescue teams in 28 cities now have the equipment and training to respond to chemical, biological or nuclear attacks as the government takes steps to prepare for potential terrorist strikes.

RELATED INFORMATION

RECENT REPORTS

- [Individual Preparedness Response to Chemical, Radiological, Nuclear, and Biological Terrorist Attacks](#), RAND, September 2003
- [Security: Counterfeit Identification Raises Homeland Security Concerns](#), GAO-04-133T, October 2003
- [Critical Infrastructure Protection: Challenges in Securing Control Systems](#), GAO-04-140T, October 2003

The information contained in this newsletter was collected from Internet sources. Opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the official position of the Department of Homeland Security or FEMA's Preparedness Division.